

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SHUM, CI
SUBJ: CONTRASTING VIEWS OF CHILEAN DEMOCRACY

REF: SANTIAGO 1703

1. SUMMARY: STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HIGHLIGHT THE VAST GAP SEPARATING THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS OF DEMOCRACY. A PDC FLYER OF MARCH 13, CHARACTERIZING THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE AS YET ANOTHER OF THE GOC'S "IMAGE" MANEUVERS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE, URGES THE GOC TO RESTORE CIVIC FREDDOMS PROMPTLY AS THE BEST DEFENSE OF NATIONAL SECURITY. SPEAKING IN THE PROVINCES MARCH 14, PRESIDENT PINOCHET SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 4 PLEBISCITE SHOW THE CHILEAN PEOPLE FIRMLY BEHIND THE "NEW INSTITUTIONALIZATION" WHICH, EVEN WITHOUT ELECTIONS, SAFEGUARDS THE PEOPLES' HONOR, WORK, PROPERTY AND FAMILY. END SUMMARY

2. THE PDC DOCUMENT CONTENTS THAT LIFTING THE STATE OF SIEGE DOES NOT MEANINGFULLY INCREASE THE DAY-TO-DAY RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE. IT STRESSES CONTINUING RESTRAINTS ON CIVIC FREDOMS AND CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE FULL RESTORA-
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TION OF THOSE RIGHTS; IT MAKES NO MENTION OF THE POWERS THE GOC HAS RELINGUISHED (SEE REFTTEL FOR ARECAPITULATION OF BOTH CATEGORIES). THE STATEMENT INCLUDES: "THE IMAGE OF CHILE ABROAD AND OUR INTERNAL UNITY CANNOT BE IMPROVED THROUGH SUBTERFUGES. TODAY MORE THAN EVER, CHILE'S NATIONAL SECURITY DEPENDS UPON PROCEEDING WITH THE GREATEST

SERIOUSNESS AND RAPIDITY TO REESTABLISH OUR COUNTRY'S PRESTIGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TO PERMIT THE RECONCILIATION OF ALL CHILEANS IN A CLIMATE OF SERENITY AND TRUE PATRIOTISM."

3. PINOCHET, MEANWHILE, TOLD A CROWD IN RURAL VALLENAR THAT THE PLEBISCITE PROVED TO THE WORLD THAT CHILEANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. FURTHERMORE: "THE PEOPLE OF CHILE UNDERSTAND THE NEW CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY. THIS OTHER DEMOCRACY, UNLIKE THE NORMAL ONE, DOES NOT DEPEND UPON TRANSITORY MAJORITIES THAT THROUGH ELECTIONS FREEZE VICTORS IN POWER UNTIL THE NEXT ELECTION EVEN THOUGH THEIR POPULAR MAJORITY MAY HAVE DISAPPEARED. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY OF LIFE, A TRUE DEMOCRACY, CAPABLE OF BEATING BACK MARXIST AGGRESSION AND ABOVE DEMOCRACY AS A FORM OF GOVERNMENT. IS THERE DEMOCRACY IN CHILE? YES INDEED. WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ELECTIONS OR SO-CALLED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, CHILEANS TODAY HAVE THEIR HONOR, WORK, PROPERTY AND FAMILY SAFEGUARDED."

4. COMMENT: THE PDC FLYER MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY ANY GAINS TO PERSONAL LIBERTY RESULTING FROM LIFTING THE STATE OF SIEGE. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THERE ARE SOME OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE. SO, DESPITE PDC UNHAPPINESS WITH CONTINUING CONSTRAINTS, THERE MAY BE MORE WILLINGNESS TO TEST THE ASSUMED LINKAGES BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS. CLEARLY PINOCHET AND THE PDC HOLD VASTLY DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LATTER.
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